

COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 5, 2008

Draft Minutes Subject to Approval at the December 5, 2008 Council Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Council Members: Steven Stubbs, Walter Jastremsky, Rod Howells, Nancy Henry, JoAnn Shopbell, Russ Patterson, Ron Schow, and Deseret Baker

Ex-Officio Members: Steven Snow, Nancy Upchurch, Doug Clapp, Deedra Hunt, Janice Wiedrick, Mary Jones, and Mary Dunne

Others: Holly Thomas-Mowery, LaVona Andrew, Lori Voigt, Cindy Schreiner, Linda Goff, Ray Lockary, Patti Durham, Tom Bradford, Cynthia Carlin, Scott Henry, Christa Cervantes, and Jack Downey

Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Steven Stubbs and introductions were made. Steven Stubbs noted that because of the lapse in time for the Governor to reappoint and appoint Council members, only Council members Nancy, Russ, JoAnn and Steven could vote at this meeting.

Approve Minutes of May 9, 2008: Nancy motioned to accept minutes as written, the motion was seconded by JoAnn. The minutes were approved as written.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

JoAnn made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session, Nancy seconded the motion, and the Council adjourned to Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

John Centa: Steven Snow said John Centa, one the original board members appointed by Governor Andrus passed away. Steven said John was very involved in the hard of hearing community. Ron said he first met John when a task force was created to identify the issues faced by the deaf and hard of hearing community. Ron said Governor Andrus started the taskforce because of a letter John wrote and the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was created because of John Centa. Ron said John was a friend of Rocky Stone who started the national group Self Help for Hard of Hearing. Russ said John was tireless in his enthusiasm for hard of hearing issues. Steven Snow said there would be an article in the Council's next newsletter about John Centa.

Zero Based Budget: Steven said there is a new initiative from the Governor's office titled Zero Based Budget. (ZBB) Steven said the timeframe for the initiative is 6 years to complete. Steven said the Council was one of the first agencies to be selected to participate. Steven said the reason for the initiative is to assure that agencies expenditures match what is determined by statute. Steven said he believed the purpose of the ZBB initiative is to look at any unnecessary spending and determine an end result of a

financial savings of 15 percent. Steven said the Council has completed and submitted the final analysis.

General Budget: Steven said we are on track for budget spending this year. He said since Idaho Sound Beginnings is now under the Infant Toddler Program, we have a savings in “off the top” costs such as building maintenance, utilities, and car pool. He said the savings are about five thousand one hundred dollars (\$5,100) which can be used for general operating expenses.

Interpreter Funds: Steven said the legislature has set aside ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for interpreter costs this year. He said the legislature is waiting for a report from Vocational Rehabilitation to determine the need for the funding before the funds are allocated. He said he has not been informed of the results of the report. He said there has been some delay in the release of the funds due to the report not being review in a timely manner and the need for some additional information.

Town Hall: Steven said he facilitated a Town Hall meeting in Gooding which was attended by about 45 individuals. Steven said the two issues that came up the most often were the need for interpreters and the need for employment. Steven said the next meeting will be held in Coeur d’Alene on September 20th. Steven said a large crowd from the local deaf club is expected to attend.

Department of Labor: Steven said he is working with the Department of Labor to gather statistics on the deaf and hard of hearing populations looking for employment.

VRI: Steven said Video Remote Interpreting links are now on our website along with the Interpreter Directory.

Captioning: KTVB had difficulty with captioning when the station converted from analog to digital television. Steven said he will be working with them on the situation in the future.

Law Enforcement: Steven said he has contacted the Idaho State Police and the Ada County Sheriff’s office regarding the policies about arresting deaf persons. Steven said there is no policy and he has been asked to provide some training to the law enforcement organizations to make sure that they are aware of the issues that are unique to the deaf and hard of hearing populations.

Postsecondary Education Programs Network (PepNet): Steven said he has been working with Paula Mason with the PepNet program which is a national network of professionals providing training, information and resources to stakeholders to enhance programs and outcomes for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Steven said the program support students as they transition from high school to college or the workforce and helps students prepare for the “real world.” Steven said the program is a national program with federal funds.

BYLAWS UPDATE:

Steven Snow said the Bylaws clearly state any changes must be done through a Bylaws Committee. Steven Stubbs said a Bylaws committee will be created after the appointment or reappointment of Council members. Steven Stubbs said that a committee will review the bylaws and submit the changes to the Council for acceptance at a future date. Nancy Henry made a motion to table any bylaws discussion until the Council's next meeting, Russ Patterson second the motion. The motion passed to table bylaw discussion until the next Council meeting.

IDAHO SOUND BEGININGS:

Cynthia Carlin said Idaho Sound Beginnings (ISB) is continuing to conduct hospital site visits and trainings. She said the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) has updated protocol for screening babies including separate protocol for babies in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and newborn nursery. The new protocol state the NICU should screen using an ABR, if a baby is referred for a rescreen, then both ears should be screened and if a baby is admitted back in the hospital during the first month of life, then a rescreen should be performed. Cynthia said ISB will be participating in the Early Year's Conference on November 18th and 19th presenting talks on Audiology for early interventionists and a session on sign language for babies. Cynthia said ISB will be attending the Idaho Hospital Association meeting in Coeur D'Alene this year on October 7th. She said ISB will be presenting topics from Audiologists and a genetics specialist and will be conducting training to the attendees from smaller hospitals in the area. Cynthia said ISB is on the agenda to the Academy of Family Physicians meeting coming up and ISB will be presenting at the Idaho Speech and Hearing Association next fall.

Cynthia said ISB will be sending out a survey to Audiologists and will be getting letters and brochures to the OB/GYN doctors for prenatal packages.

HAMILTON RELAY:

Christa Cervantes said traditional relay minutes continue to decrease. She said Hamilton contributes this decrease to more people are using other services like video relay, CapTel and internet relay. She said Hamilton is not anticipating not having a need for relay services. Christa said Hamilton has hired Russ Patterson as the new Outreach Coordinator for Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska. She said Hamilton sponsored several outreach activities including a picnic in Coeur D'Alene. She said Hamilton is planning on sponsoring a picnic in the Boise area next year. Christa said Hamilton was the first company to release web CapTel. She said Hamilton has a program in Idaho where a person can buy a CapTel telephone for ninety-nine dollars (\$99).

NEW LEGISLATION: Steven Snow said he would like to present ideas for discussion for the 2010 legislative sessions as the deadline for the 2009 legislation session has passed. Steven said he would like to promote legislation about enforcing captioning on televisions in airports or other public places. Steven presented a copy of California

legislation AB2555 Special Education. Steven said this legislation would require parents of deaf or hard of hearing students who have an Individual Education Program (IEP) to be informed of the services provided by the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind (ISDB). He said any legislation would be presented at the 2010 legislative session. Steven Snow said the Council needs to be proactive with the legislature so that they know that the Council is vital. JoAnn said there needs to be a discussion about legislation to require school districts to meet the criteria for interpreters in the schools now that standards are set. She said the “undue hardship” clause should be eliminated.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Vocational Rehabilitation: Doug said he attempting to build his case load of deaf and hard of hearing clients. He said he has 25 profoundly deaf clients. He said currently he is in charge of 2 case loads including mentally ill clients and deaf clients. He said as soon as his deaf case load increases, he will not have the mentally ill case load. Slowing down in how quickly he can provide services. He said his goal is to have deaf people understand that he really wants to work with them and provide services. He wants to set up a system that will maintain itself. Steven said eligibility is established through a signature of a physician not an audiologist. Doug said Vocational Rehabilitation will pay for hearing aids for those who are working and need new hearing aids. He said it is his goal to provide training for people to obtain and maintain employment. Doug said if a person needs hearing aids to maintain employment, then Vocational Rehabilitation will pay for them, but they must either be employed or seeking employment. He said Vocational Education pays up to three thousand three hundred dollars (\$3,300) per year for education and six hundred dollars (\$600) for books.

Commission on Aging: Deedra Hunts said the Commission has a new administrator, Kim Torianski. Deedra said the new administrator is meeting with agencies both locally and nationally to determine how services can be improved. Deedra said the Commission has a new data collection system that allows more accurate tracking of services that are provided and needed. Deedra said there is an improvement in case management.

Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind (ISDB): Mary Dunne said the Deaf and Blind Education Reform Summit was generally very positive. She said ISDB can go forward with educating students. She said the conclusions of the Summit included the need for an Advisory Board which would include many stakeholders. She said letters will be sent in the near future inviting different organizations and parents to join the Advisory Board. Steven Snow said he had people he wanted to recommend for the Advisory Board. Mary said that after the State Board of Education meeting in October, different people and organizations will be asked their recommendations. The Summit also concluded that there needed to be a full continuum of placement options including a residential school should be provided, mentoring opportunities, preparedness for teachers of the blind, and cooperation and collaboration with different agencies that can provide information and services.

Mary Dunne said there are 74 students on campus, with 40% of the students being elementary and 60% being secondary students. She said an additional preschool teacher for the campus was hired due to increase in the number of preschoolers attending. She said 49 students are deaf or hard of hearing, 21 are blind or visually impaired and 1 is deaf/blind.

Mary said ISDB will be sending a letter of support for Dr. Paula Pittman from Utah State University for a grant to fund a virtual deaf history museum.

Department of Labor: Nancy Upchurch said the Department of Labor assists people to obtain employment. Nancy said the Department of Labor does not specifically assist people with disabilities; however, the department has recently received a federal grant that allows the department to hire additional positions and provide specialized training to help people with disabilities find better employment. She said the Department of Labor works closely with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and other agencies. Steven Snow said he would like to collaborate with the Department of Labor to help them understand the specialized needs of the deaf and hard of hearing.

Steven Snow said he had heard from the deaf community that interpreters were not being provided for various workshops even though the request was made. Nancy said she was not aware of that situation and would follow up to send information via e-mail about how the situation can be rectified.

Bureau of Occupational Licenses: Janice Wiedrick said the Speech and hearing Services Board is very active. She said now they have licensed 438 Speech/Language Pathologists (SLP) and 84 Audiologists. Nancy said she would provide a list of hearing aid dealers to Ron Schow. She said SLPs must have a Masters or Doctorate degree and pass the national Praxis assessment. Nancy said licenses are renewed annually, she said applicants must pay the fee and provide proof of continuing education. She said there is a formal process to handle complaints filed with the Bureau regarding SLPs, hearing aid dealers, Audiologists and others licensed through the Bureau. Janice introduced Linda Goff who will be attending future Council meetings as the Ex-Officio member representing the Bureau of Occupational Licenses.

OLD BUSINESS: JoAnn made a motion for the Council to begin a correspondence with agency heads that they facilitate completion of the state to fulfill the Americans with Disabilities Act on behalf of Steven Snow. Nancy seconded the motion.

There was discussion by several members on the timeframe, the agencies to contact and the outcome for all deaf people. JoAnn said she would start the process and keep in contact with other board members for guidance and advice. The motion passed.

NEXT MEETING scheduled for Friday December 5, 2008, **SUITE A, ROOM 192.**

Meeting was adjourned.